

# Legal Notice

## North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project Public Scoping

### United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest Sierra & Yuba Counties

The U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, is initiating scoping for the proposed North Yuba Landscape Resilience Project (Project). The proposed Project has been developed through a collaborative process by the North Yuba Forest Partnership (NYFP) to improve and restore forest health and resilience, reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, protect and secure water supplies, and protect communities from the effects of high-severity wildfire and climate change in the North Yuba River watershed. The Project area (also referred to as the "Landscape") stretches from New Bullards Bar Reservoir east up to the Sierra Crest along Highway 49.

#### Purpose and Need

The NYFP is motivated to reduce risk of, and increase resilience to, severe disturbances, including wildfire, within this Landscape. Beneficial, low-to-moderate severity fire has been largely absent in this Landscape for more than a century. Structure and composition of the Landscape's forests have been substantially altered from historic conditions. Forests in this condition are highly susceptible to drought, insect and disease infestations, and destructive wildfire. A large, high-severity wildfire within the Landscape could result in loss of human life and would cause considerable damage to communities and watershed health. Recognizing that community safety and forest health are complementary and interrelated, the NYFP is working together to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire and protect communities at an increased pace and scale.

#### Proposed Action

To accomplish the goals and objectives identified above, the Project includes the following activities:

Prescribed fire – including understory burning and pile burning;

Thinning – including thinning from below and variable density thinning, with tree removal accomplished using hand thinning, mastication, ground based mechanical thinning, and aerial thinning;

Opening creation – including openings ranging from 1 to 3 acres each;

Strategic tree planting – including planting conifer and/or hardwood tree species within 10 to 20 percent of the 1- to 3-acre created openings;

Sanitation cutting and stand improvement – including removal of mistle-toe-infected overstory conifer trees;

Conifer removal, prescribed fire and fencing to restore aspen stands, meadows, and fens;

Stabilize, realign, and restore incised stream channels;

Soil decompaction;

Road repair, maintenance, and decommissioning;

Manual, cultural, and/or chemical removal of non-native invasive plants; and, project-specific amendments to the Forest Plan (1990 and 2004), as amended.

Forest Plan amendments would modify, remove, and add specific forest plan components to allow activities in key areas designated in the Forest Plan to better protect the resources in these areas, including: (1) inventoried roadless areas, (2) California spotted owl and northern goshawk protected activity centers, (3) California spotted owl home range core areas, and (4) other forested areas. A detailed description and maps of the proposed Project activities and project-specific plan amendments can be found on the Project website at: <https://www.yubaforest.org>.

#### Public Participation Opportunities

The Tahoe National Forest is at the beginning stages of planning and environmental analysis for the Project. A notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be published in the Federal Register on September 16, 2021. Publication of the NOI will initiate the 30-day public scoping period. During the scoping period, the Tahoe National Forest is requesting public comments concerning issues and concerns related to the Project's proposed actions. If you would like to provide scoping input, please submit written comments within 30 days of the date the NOI is published in the Federal Register to: Eli Ilano, Tahoe National Forest Supervisor, c/o Laurie Perrot, Attn: North Yuba Project, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA, 95959. Comments may also be submitted electronically at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=59693](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=59693) in the "Get Connected" section. Submitted comments should include: (1) name, address, and telephone number, of the commenter; and if applicable, the organization represented; (2) a heading or subject line of "North Yuba Project," and (3) specific concerns, issues, or suggestions related to the Project and the reasons for any concerns or suggestions. If you do not wish to comment but would like to follow the development of this Project proposal, please select "Subscribe to Email Updates" in the "Get Connected" section. If we do not hear from you, we will not be able to include you on the mailing list for this specific project.

Two public scoping meetings are scheduled, one on September 22, 2021, and the other on September 30, 2021. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the public will be able to attend these meeting either via the internet or telephone:

#### September 22

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us06web.zoom.](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82903703181?pwd=RXhFRXpTTUpNUDU4V3lseVVCK1pVUT09)

[us/j/82903703181?pwd=RXhFRXpTTUpNUDU4V3lseVVCK1pVUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82903703181?pwd=RXhFRXpTTUpNUDU4V3lseVVCK1pVUT09)

Telephone: (669) 900 6833

Webinar ID: 829 0370 3181

Passcode: 465960

#### September 30

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us06web.zoom.](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89001537848?pwd=NmhMbmdxQVdLSnZNVFcxNzJTWTgrZz09)

[us/j/89001537848?pwd=NmhMbmdxQVdLSnZNVFcxNzJTWTgrZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89001537848?pwd=NmhMbmdxQVdLSnZNVFcxNzJTWTgrZz09)

Telephone: (669) 900 6833

Webinar ID: 890 0153 7848

Passcode: 690554

An in person viewing location will also be available at the Downieville Community Hall, 322 Main Street, Downieville, CA 95936. Additional information about scoping meetings and other aspects of the scoping process are available on the Project website.

This project is subject to pre-decisional administrative review consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112-74) as implemented by Subparts A and B of 36 CFR part 218. In addition, the proposed forest plan amendments are subject to pre-decisional administrative review, pursuant to Subpart B of the Planning Rule (36 CFR part 219). Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during a public comment period will be eligible to file an objection. Specific written comments are those submitted to the Responsible Official during a designated opportunity for public participation (36 CFR 218.5(a)), which includes the scoping period. For the purposes of this Rule, specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

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